

## SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za), on packet bulletin boards and on echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

### SILENT KEY

It is with regret that we announce the passing, in Cape Town, of Peter Duffy, ZS1PRD. Peter had been undergoing heart treatment in the last few months, and succumbed on Sunday 3 October. He was a relative newcomer to Amateur Radio, but was well known in the Western Cape for his excellence in radio control model aircraft flying instruction. With a relatively modest station, he spent many happy hours working DX on 10 metres, and was a keen instructor of Morse Code, which he had himself used as a radio operator in the Second World War. To his wife Barbara, his children, other relatives and friends, our sincere condolences.

(PAUSE)

In the news today.

PRESIDENT'S NET AND INTECHNET THIS EVENING

AMATEUR RADIO TO FEATURE ON RADIO 702

HAMNET MEETING.

RAE DATE ANNOUNCED

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office, which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00, at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

News contributors, Sarlnews appreciate your contributions, you are our most important source on activities and development of amateur radio in the RSA. All contributors please note that the only way to ensure that your contribution will not be lost, but reach all four news compilers, is to make use of the facility provided on the SARL web ie. [www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp) for submission of your contribution. You prepare your item(s) beforehand in text format, check it for gramMitical, spelling and typing errors, copy it, connect with the stated address, provide your name, call sign and email address and paste your message in the space provided, click on 'send' and it is done, easy!

As most items are about events during the immediate past or forthcoming week-end or later, virtually all items can be submitted early in a week and there

is rarely a necessity for a late or urgent message. Early submission, and also in Afrikaans as well as English, makes the work for the news compilers easier. Your co-operation will be appreciated.

You are listening to ZS6SRL and now let us continue with the news in detail.

#### PRESIDENT'S NET AND INTECHNET

World Space week activities will be concluded with the President's Net this evening at 19:15 and Intecnet at 20:00 featuring Bob Bruninga, W4APR, for an interesting discussion and learn how easy it is to use APRS. APRS is the acronym for Automatic Packet Reporting Systems.

To get more from tonight's Intecnet, download Bob Bruninga's PowerPoint presentation from the SA AMSAT website at [www.amsatsa.org.za](http://www.amsatsa.org.za). It is not necessary to have the presentation available to enjoy the discussion, it is just an enhancement.

Ever since the beginnings of packet radio in the late seventies, Bob wrote software that combined the flexibility of packet radio with the dynamics of real-time events. Bob's years of toiling at a variety of computer boards came to a climax when he completed developing the first version of APRS Dos in 1992.

Clubs who have not yet booked a link have until 12 noon today to do so by sending an email to [armi@sarl.org.za](mailto:armi@sarl.org.za). Please supply details of the repeater and the telephone number to be linked. Due to technical reasons cellphone and Telkom Prepaid phone services cannot be linked.

#### AMATEUR RADIO TO FEATURE ON RADIO 702

Next Saturday 16 October Amateur Radio will feature on Radio 702's early morning show from 06:00 - 07:00. Radio Amateurs in the Gauteng area will have an opportunity to call in on one of the local repeaters and take part in the show.

Radio 702 is steamed on the internet allowing listeners in other parts of the country to tune in. The URL is [www.702.co.za](http://www.702.co.za). During that time of the morning 702 kHz covers a large portion of South Africa. However as the sun rises the reception will drop off rapidly in areas outside Gauteng.

#### HAMNET MEETING.

A general HAMNET meeting will take place at the National Amateur Radio Centre on Saturday the 23rd of October.

The meeting will commence at 14:00 and all HAMNET members, or those interested in becoming HAMNET members, are requested to attend.

It will be appreciated if items which are to be added to the agenda or items that need to be discussed be sent to Francois as soon as possible.

Francois' e-mail address is [zs6buu@uskonet.com](mailto:zs6buu@uskonet.com) or you can phone or fax him at 011 679-5260.

## UPDATING OF SARL AND ICASA DATABASES

In previous bulletins, mention was made that the SARL has obtained a copy of the amateur database from ICASA. There are several mistakes and lack of information. Council thus request all club chairman and/or custodians to update their records ASAP, (on or before 31 October 2004) on the available application/update form on the SARL website. This form can be completed in electronic form and emailed, or printed out and mailed to the SARL. All repeaters, digipeaters, links, BBS's, APRS digipeaters and other unattended stations have to be licensed. The information will then be correlated, so please do fill in the form comprehensively. Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated. The form will also be available on packet. For further information, contact Kobus Conradie, ZR6D, Tel. 082-88-11164, or by email, [kobus@letsplayradio.co.za](mailto:kobus@letsplayradio.co.za).

## CLOSING DATE FOR RA EXAMINATION

The next RAE will take place on Thursday 18 November. Entries for this examination close this coming Thursday, 14 October. No late entries will be accepted. Entries received after this date will be automatically left over till the next RAE in 2005. Entries can be done online at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za).

An entry form can also be downloaded from the SARL web page and after completion faxed to the SARL on 011-675-2793. You can also phone the SARL office at 011-675-2393 and request that an entry form be faxed or posted to you.

## RADIO AMATEUR OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS EXTENDED

One More day to nominate for the Siemens Radio Amateur of the Year Awards. The closing date for the Radio Amateur of the Year Awards has been extended by one week to accommodate late entries. The final closing date is tomorrow, Monday 11 October 2004.

To date several nominations have been received for the Radio Amateur of the Year Award, but only one for the junior category. Is there a young person in your club that is involved in promoting amateur radio or doing some development work? Here is the chance to reward him or her with the Siemens Radio Amateur of the Year Award. The Young Radio Amateur of the Year Award has not been awarded for the past two years because of lack of qualifying nominations. The nominee must be under 25 years of age and have made a contribution to the development of Amateur Radio, be it technical or organisational. Full details including a nomination form appear on the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust Website at [www.amateurradio.org.za](http://www.amateurradio.org.za).

## PROPAGATION REPORT

Kobus, ZS6KOB, reports that propagation conditions varied this past week from good to very weak. We must accept that these conditions will continue for the next couple of years and will deteriorate further. Fortunately conditions are, in general, good for 40 and 80 meters. On Thursday the 80 meter band held up very well during the competition with less noise than expected. The sunspot

count on Thursday was 36,9 against last week's 34,9. Contrary to expectation it stayed fairly constant for the whole of the past week. The so - called 27 day maximum has not yet been realised - it may be that the cycle has lengthened or that there will not be one. My personal opinion is that it is a lengthened cycle.

The expectation is that a corona-opening will occur between 8-9 October with the possibility of a weak one on 7 October. Geomagnetic conditions may be quiet to unstable between 8-9 October. There are at present more active areas on the sun's surface than was the case a week ago. Forecasts are at present very difficult - so keep the radios on - the unexpected is always there. The forecast average sunspot number for October is 30,5 compared to 32,8 for September.

#### DIARY OF EVENTS

10 October President's net and Intecnet this evening at 19:15 and 20:00 16 October CQ Houkoers, Amateurs who have not yet procured an educational station license can contact Louis, ZR6ABC, on [llk@mweb.co.za](mailto:llk@mweb.co.za) or after hours at tel 012 345 3275; 16-17 October 47th Jamboree on the air. Participating stations must register their stations as educational stations with the SARL and contact Dave Gemmell at PO Box 77, Irene, 0062 and telephone 012 667-2153 or e-mail [davegemmell@bmknet.co.za](mailto:davegemmell@bmknet.co.za) for participation cards. Consult [www.scout.org/jota](http://www.scout.org/jota) or [www.scout.org/joti](http://www.scout.org/joti) for the latest information; 23 October Hamnet general meeting; 18 November Next RAE examination. Closing date for entries this coming Thursday 14 October. Contributions to the fund initiated by the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust for the SARL's IARU membership are still welcome; Please submit your articles for Radio ZS to [radiozs@sarl.org.za](mailto:radiozs@sarl.org.za); Please send A5 size self addressed envelopes with postage stamps to cover 200 g (R4,35) to the NARC to enable delivery of your QSL cards to you.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN, and read by .....from..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX